

GUIDE TO THE OI19 TASMANIANS FILE

[The OI19 Tasmanians file is concerned with the aboriginal Australoid peoples who inhabited the island of Tasmania south of the Australian mainland from the time of White contact to their extinction in the late nineteenth century. There is only one source in the file, 1: Roth, which is a compilation of first-hand information from the documents available to Roth in the 1880's. Since Roth did no field work among the Tasmanians, and because of the nature of the material, data in the file are incomplete, scattered, and very often superficial. However, the material is interesting in itself in that the society was of a relatively low order of complexity. Researchers should note that the information is scant and extremely biased against the aborigines, and should be used with caution. In addition it is difficult to discern the time and social focus of much of the data. However, with proper cautions, the file can be used for comparative and other research. Since the file was processed before the publication of the Outline of World Cultures, there are no alphameric codes on the individual file slips. The file was processed in 1950.]